

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DPW-01 AID-10 SPC-01 DRC-01

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----- 124450

R 311255Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3624

INFO CJCS

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 11900

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: CONSCRIPTION: TROUBLE AT THE TRAINING CENTERS

REF: PHNOM PENH 11737

1. SUMMARY. CONSCRIPTION CHIEF OF STAFF THAPPANA NGINN'S CHARGE THAT BAD ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN TRAINING CENTERS IS HARMING THE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN WAS SUBSTANTIATED WITH THE REVELATION THAT ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF THE 700 RECRUITS SENT TO LONGVEK LEFT THE CAMP. STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT DIFICIENCIES AND TO INCREASE DISCIPLINE AT THIS AND OTHER TRAINING CENTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES' SUGGESTION, FANK COMMANDE-IN-CHIEF MG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ CALLED A MEETING ON OCT 30 OF ALL CONCERNED WITH FANK TRAINING
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CAMPS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF ACCOMODATING NEW RECRUITS,

GENERAL THAPPANA NGINN, CHMEDTC, POL/MIL COUNSELOR AND
MEDTC PERSONNEL ATTENDED. THE MEETING REVEALED
THE FOLLOWING DEFICIENCIES:

A. OF THE 706 RECRUITS SENT TO LONGVEK TRAINING CENTER
454 RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH OVER THE PAST WEEK-END
COMPLAINING OF POOR ACCOMODATIONS AND FOOD. WEEK-END
PASSES WERE APPARENTLY ISSUED BY A LIEUTENANT IN
CONTRAVENTION OF STANDING ORDERS. SIXTY-NINE OF THESE
MEN ARE KNOWN TO WANT TO RETURN BUT WERE UNABLE TO DO SO
WHEN ROUTE 5 WAS CUT SOUTH OF LONGVEK. ACCORDING TO
THAPPANA NGINN, THE DESERTERS ACCOUNT OF CONDITIONS AT
LONGVEK HAVE BEEN A CAUSE OF THE SUBSEQUENT DROP IN THE
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS.

B. THE KAMBOL TRAINING CENTER COMMANDER NOTED THAT
HE HAD HAD 59 DESERTERS AMONG HIS 809 NEW RECRUITS.
MORE WORRISOME WAS THE REVELATION THAT TEN PERCENT OF
THE TRAINEES AT KAMBOL ARE ILL WITH DYSENTERY AND FLU
AND THE CAMP HAS ONLY ONE NURSE. PREY SAR WITH 104
DESERTERS IN ITS CONTINGENT OF 2034 AND GENERALLY GOOD
MORALE HAS THE BEST RECORD OF THE CAMPS NOW HOLDING
CONSCRIPTS.

C. MOST TRAINING CENTERS HAVE NO SECURITY BATTALIONS.
THIS IS A PARTICULAR PROBLEM FOR LONGVEK AND FOR THE
KOMPONG SPEU CENTER, WHOSE COMMANDER WAS RELUCTANT
TO ACCEPT MORE THAN THE 1700 RECRUITS ALLOCATED TO HIS
CENTER.

2. AN OCTOBER 30 VISIT TO LONGVEK BY MEDTC AND POL/MIL
OFFICERS CONFIRMED THAT THE SITUATION THERE IS SERIOUS
AND REVEALED THAT 21 MEMBERS OF THE TRAINING STAFF WERE
ALSO AWOL. TRAINING CAMP COMMANDER BG TUM YAM ADMITTED
THERE WAS A TOTAL LACK OF DISCIPLINE AMONG HIS TRAINING
PERSONNEL AND THAT HE WAS CONSEQUENTLY UNABLE TO CONTROL
THE TRAINEES, WHO LEAVE AND ENTER THE CAMP MORE OR LESS
FREELY. HE OUTLINED A NUMBER OF OTHER PROBLEMS INCLUDING
INADEQUATE FUNDS FOR FOOD AND CONSTRUCTION, LACK OF
MEDICAL SUPPLIES, INSUFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL
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AND IMPROPER DOCUMENTATION OF ARRIVING RECRUITS. HE
ATTRIBUTED A LARGE PART OF HIS PROBLEMS TO THE FANK
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF INSTRUCTION (DGI).

3. AS A RESULT OF THE OCTOBER 30 MEETING GENERAL
FERNANDEZ ORDERED THAT: (A) NO MORE RECRUITS BE SENT
TO LONGVEK UNTIL DISCREPANCIES HAVE BEEN CORRECTED;
(B) ORDERS PROHIBITING LEAVE FOR TRAINEES BE STRICTLY

OBSERVED, (C) FOOD BE PURCHASED BY CAM COMMITTEES
RATHER THAN BY A CONTRACTOR (AS AT LONGVEK), (D)
DESERTERS FROM LONGVEK BE RECOVERED AND SENT TO KOMPONG
SPEU TRAINING CENTER, (E) THAT TEMPORARY DOCUMENTATION
BE PROVIDED NEW RECRUITS AND (F) THAT ALL TRAINING
CENTER COMMANDERS REMAIN AT THEIR CENTERS (AIMED
PARTICULARLY AT THE KAMBOL COMMANDER), (G) THAT
PONCHO LINERS BE ISSUED BY DIRINTENDANCE TO THE
RECRUITS, (H) THAT DGI SCHEDULE WEEKLY PERSONAL
VISITS TO ALL TRAINING CENTERS, AND (I) THAT MG FAN MUONG
PERSONALLY ARRANGE FOR ADEQUATE SECURITY AT EACH CAMP.

4. COMMENT: LONGVEK AND KAMBOL HAVE TE TWO WEAKEST
CENTER COMMANDERS. THEY ARE BACKSTOPPED BY AN EVEN
WEAKER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INSTRUCTION. FURTHERMORE
THEY SUFFER FROM LACK OF ATTENTION ON THE PART OF
G-4 AND THE FANK HIGH COMMAND. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY WARNED
THE GENERAL STAFF OF THIS DEFICIENCY AND IT NOW APPEARS
ESSENTIAL THAT PERSONNEL CHANGES BE MADE.
ENDERS

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